

# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## Special points of interest:

- From the President
- Invitation to Visalia
- Smith Charts
- December Meeting Minutes
- Proposed 2017 Budget
- DX Contests
- Programs Needed!

## How to Join

- \* Come to a club meeting;
- \* or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))
- \* or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

## From the President

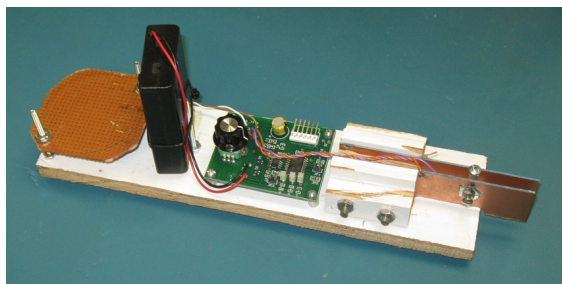
By Mark Brown, N4BCD

Happy New Year! Hope you all had a good holiday season. With my focus on family, football, and food there wasn't much time spent at the radio, but I did ring in 2017 with a January 1 morning QSO with Sean Kutzko KX9X, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager on 40m Phone.

Even without time at the radio, the radio was on and an open door to the shack just off the kitchen & family room periodically emitted all manner of audio. Which brings me to today's topic – ham audio.

I'm not referring to the quality of audio, but rather the sounds of the modes we use. My XYL Julie KK4CLG displays a great deal of patience for my proclivity to monitor as Ham Radio Deluxe scans bands for activity but that patience is tempered by mode. We'll leave the excited DX spot announcements on W4QB out of this because that's her short fuse. CW and RTTY doesn't draw her ire like SSB. She'll sometimes ask what the CW is saying and I'll reply with what my limited skills can copy. She likens the sound of SSB to the aliens in the Sci-fi comedy Mars Attacks – which by the way is the sound of ducks quacking played backwards.

Related to this audio is a new toy I was given this holiday season, designed and built by none other than Tom KG4CUI. Along the compact length of plywood he mounted a speaker, battery pack, electronic keyer circuit on a custom designed PCB, and even the paddles construct-



ed from double-sided copper clad board. The keyer contacts are stainless steel screws.

Now I can practice sending CW and annoy Julie anywhere in the house! Commercial breaks and halftimes are now filled with the sounds of my ham-fisted CW right beside her on the couch.

Your officers & directors were planning to meet on the 6<sup>th</sup> to map out some things for the club such as picnic date, Hamfest Banquet speaker, and most importantly, our 2017 operating budget. Kelley W4VPZ did an excellent job in taking last year's actuals and coming up with what we think a good proposal to bring to the membership for ratification at next Tuesday's meeting. To be sure, this is not set in stone, and there will be an opportunity for discussion prior to voting.

I want to make an appeal to the membership. Tom KG4CUI continues to do a fine job on this Longpath publication you're reading and he's dependent on all of us to contribute content. So while the year is young please make a new resolve to share a story or topic of interest. Photos are welcome but not necessary. Writing is easy, just move your fingers on the keyboard and the words show up on the screen.

With the cold temperatures forecast this weekend I'm truly excited to keep the shack warm by running QRO in the ARRL RTTY Round-up. See you in the pile-ups.

73 ES HNY,

Mark N4BCD

North Alabama DX Club - President

## Invitation to Visalia

From the 2017 IDXC Committee

Dear DXer,

I would like to extend a personal invitation to you and Members of your Club to attend the International DX Convention 2017 in Visalia, California on April 21-22-23, 2017.

IDXC 2017 will be our 68th annual International DX Convention. DXers from around the world will gather once again to meet their fellow DXers, attend interesting and informative programs, see the latest in new products from the top vendors – and have a chance to win some great raffle prizes! This year Friday, April 21, 2017 will be a full day of training, presentations and vendor exhibits.

Full details of IDXC 2017 are at this website: <http://www.dxconvention.com/>

You can download the IDXC 2017 PR Kit here: <http://www.dxconvention.com/files/idxc2017-prkit.zip>. The IDXC 2017 PR Kit contains:

- An IDXC 2017 Flyer that you can include in your Club newsletter and post at your DX gathering place.
- A short IDXC 2017 PPT slide show you can use for your Club meeting
- An IDXC 2017 color advertisement that you can include in your Club newsletter
- A Visalia Vacation Options brochure - Visalia is just a few hours from world-class California vacation destinations, and we encourage all our DXing friends to combine their visit to IDXC with a vacation.

Thank you, and I hope to see you and many of your Club members at our International DX Convention next April!

- 73 and good DX de Mike, [K6MKE](#), IDXC 2017 Committee

## Smith Charts—the Easy Way

January Program by Paul Nelson, K4JAZ

Most of us are aware of Smith Charts, and may well have learned or at least guessed over the years that they are best avoided. Unless you use them every day, remembering which direction is “toward the load” and which is “toward the generator”, which path along those circles is inductive and which capacitive, and whether the chart is in the “red” or “blue” or “normal” or “reversed” orientation seems to produce a migraine in no time. Smith charts no doubt gave rise to the development of variable capacitors and roller inductors as a less intimidating way to match impedances. You can match almost anything with two or three variable elements—it’s less taxing on the neurons to just twist some knobs for a while and see if you land purely by chance on an acceptable match.

K4JAZ will present a simpler way to deal with impedance matching as a reprise of a recent HARC program. No, we’re not talking about inserting an automatic antenna tuner everywhere impedances change, although that approach might have some merit. Rather, Paul will explain and demonstrate a Smith chart program that pretty much guarantees no-headache determination of matching network L and C values.

Come see the magic at our January 10th meeting. Get to the Golden Corral around 6:00 for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for Paul’s program. See you there!



## NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	John Stensby, N5DF
Secretary/	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

## December Christmas Party/Meeting Minutes

By NADXC Secretary/Treasurer Kelley Johns, W4VPZ

December 6, 2016 at Terranova's Italian Restaurant

24 members and 6 guests signed in

Some brief announcements were made by Mark N4BCD.

Thanks to Jim Spikes N4KH, our outgoing vice president, and welcome to John Stensby N5DF, our incoming vice president. Mark thanked, also, the current slate of officers that continue to serve and keep the club running smoothly.

K4BFT Field Day results: #1 in 4A, and #7 overall.

The 2016 North Alabama DX Club Out-

standing Amateur of the Year award was presented to Bruce Smith AC4G. Congratulations!

Two 1 lb. bags of Blind Roasted Coffee from the Unseen Bean, Gerry Leary, a regular vendor at the Dayton Hamvention were the door prizes for the evening. A bag of Contester's Blend, and a bag of Kilowatt Coffee were both won by guests at the dinner.

### Recent DX Worked:

Bob Friend KC4TNC Indonesia  
YBODJ, Mali TZ4AM, Corsica TKOC

Stephen Smith KK4TJP 6W Senegal  
20m, 5T Mauritania 40m

Dan Whitsett W4BRE J3, J6, V51,  
etc. on 40 cw last night

Bruce Smith AC4G X21A,  
XW040, 8Q75P, 3B9, 3B8, 4S7, TL8

Our next meeting will be January 10, 2017.

### Treasurer's Report for December 2016

Beginning Balance \$ 3,485.21

ARRL Spectrum Defense \* \$ 70.00

\*matched Club members' donations

Dues pd for 2017 \$ 85.80

Paypal (dues pd for 2017) \$ 138.28

Ending Balance \$ 3,639.29

## Proposed 2017 Budget

From the NADXC Officers and Directors

Item	Description	Income	Expense	Bank Balance
1	Current Bank Account Balance 1/1/17			\$ 3,623.49
2	Dues receipts (est. 50 members @ \$15 each)	\$ 750.00		\$ 4,373.49
3	Repeater Power Bill		\$ 80.00	\$ 4,293.49
4	Repeater maintenance		\$ 100.00	\$ 4,193.49
5	Annual Web Hosting & Domain Service		\$ 72.25	\$ 4,121.24
6	DX Expedition Sponsorship		\$ 400.00	\$ 3,721.24
7	Young Ham of the Year Plaque		\$ 46.86	\$ 3,674.38
8	Annual DX Club Banquet Receipts (est.)	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 6,674.38
9	Annual DX Club Banquet Expenses - room & meal		\$ 2,300.00	\$ 4,374.38
10	Hamfest Banquet Door Prizes		\$ 400.00	\$ 3,974.38
11	DX Banquet Speaker Expenses		\$ 300.00	\$ 3,674.38
12	Matching of member contributions to ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund		\$ 100.00	\$ 3,574.38
13	Annual Club Picnic (\$75 shelter rental + \$10 picnic supplies)		\$ 85.00	\$ 3,489.38
14	Plaque, Dxer of the year		\$ 46.86	\$ 3,442.52
15	Quarterly Door Prize		\$ 100.00	\$ 3,342.52
16	Incorporation*		\$ 200.00	\$ 3,142.52
	Summary	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 4,230.97	
	Net Difference in Bank Balance			-\$ 480.97
	*Earmarked donation 2/9/16 of \$200 to the club for incorporation expenses			
	web hosting paid 12/7/15 to QTH.com \$59.40 annual			
	domain name paid 1/11/16 to QTH.com \$11.35 annual			

## DX Contests for January

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### DARC 10 Meter Contest, (CW/SSB), 10 meters

Jan 8, 0900Z to 1059Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial No., DOK code

See page 95, Jan QST and

[www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest)

### LZ Open Championship, (CW), 80 & 40 meters

Jan 20, 1800Z to 2200Z

Exchange: S.N. + last S.N. rcvd (6 digits total)

See page 95, Jan QST and

[www.lzopen.com](http://www.lzopen.com)

### HA DX Contest, (CW/SSB), 160-10 meters

Jan 21, 1200Z to Jan 22, 1200Z

Exchange: RST + S.N.

See page 95, Jan QST and [www.ha-dx.com](http://www.ha-dx.com)

### CQWW 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Jan 27, 2200Z to Jan 29, 2200Z

Exchange: RST plus CQ zone

See page 95, Jan. QST and

[www.CQ160.com](http://www.CQ160.com)

### REF French Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Jan 28, 0600Z to Jan 29, 1800Z

Exchange: RST plus serial no. ( F stns. give Dept. ID)

See page 95, Jan. QST and

[www.concours.ref-union.org](http://www.concours.ref-union.org)

### BARTG RTTY Sprint, (DIG), 80 -10 meters

Jan 28. 1200Z to Jan 29 1200Z

Exchange: Serial no.

See: page 95 Jan. QST &

[www.bartg.org.uk](http://www.bartg.org.uk)

### UBA (Belgium) Contest (SSB), 80-10 meters

Jan 28, 1300Z to Jan 29, 1300Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial no.; ON sends province

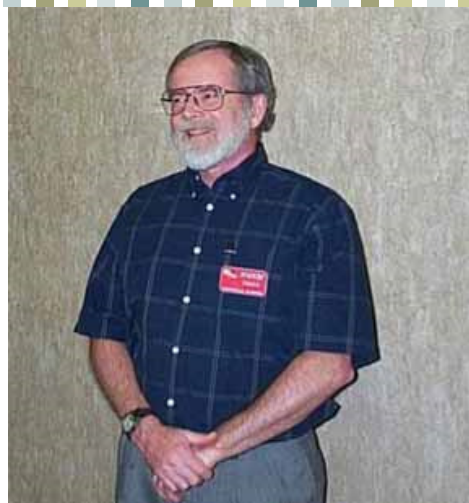
See page 95, Jan. QST and

[www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules](http://www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules)

### OTHERS:

#### WAB Top Band Phone Contest,

Jan. 21, 1900Z – Jan. 22, 2300Z



#### CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest,

0000Z, Feb 11 to 2400Z, Feb 12

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM

## Programs Needed!

By John Stensby, N5DF

### A Call for Program Ideas and Suggestions

Interesting and informative programs serve to increase meeting attendance and draw "new blood" into the club. For this coming year, my goal is to organize a number of informative and interesting club programs.

But, I need your help. Club members are my best source of programs. *I will be calling on you for your input.* Do not be bashful/shy or think that others are not interested in what you have to say!

Remember, we need a diverse mix of programs, not just those that deal with technical subjects, my natural propensity. Let's see what we can do!

John, n5df

### The LongPath Staff

#### Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

#### Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President